



# Focus

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## Voluntary BAP Program for Tank Vessels

Washington State's standards for the safe and pollution-free operation of tank vessels, called the Best Achievable Protection (BAP) standards, represent the best practices found on tank vessels throughout the world. Companies may now highlight their efforts to improve safety and protect the environment by enlisting in the state's voluntary BAP program for tank vessels.

### **Your company can be listed on Washington's BAP List!**

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The voluntary compliance program for tank vessels is designed to protect Washington waters and reward tank ship and tank barge companies that voluntarily operate their tank vessels in compliance with Washington's BAP standards while in state waters. Companies participating in this non-regulatory program deserve and will receive public recognition.

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) Spills Program BAP List will be located on the department's Web site, which is visited 3,000 to 5,000 times per month by a diverse array of people and organizations including oil shippers, vetters, and charterers. In addition, the BAP List will be published in Ecology's newsletter, *Spill Scene*, and periodically submitted to major international maritime publications.

### **How to Participate in the Voluntary BAP Program**

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Participating in the voluntary compliance program for tank vessels is relatively simple and straightforward. You may select one of the following options:

**Option 1:** If your company already has an approved oil spill prevention plan for tank vessels on file with Ecology's Spills Program, you may continue to comply with the operating procedures, personnel policies, and management practices described in your prevention plan. Under this option, our vessel inspectors will verify compliance with your prevention plan during voluntary annual inspections of your tank vessels that call in Washington; or

**Option 2:** If you have not submitted a prevention plan to our offices, you may submit one, and we will review it for compliance with the BAP standards. If we have received your prevention plan but it is not yet approved, we will review it for compliance with the BAP standards. Our vessel inspectors will verify compliance during visits to your tank vessels that call in Washington; or

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**Option 3:** You may provide us with a copy of your ISM Safety Management System (SMS) or your AWO Responsible Carrier Program (RCP). We will review your SMS or RCP for compliance with the BAP standards. Under this option, our vessel inspectors will verify compliance with your SMS or RCP. If you select this option, we will need a cross reference list that helps us locate the specific sections in your SMS or RCP that show compliance with the BAP standards; or

**Option 4:** If you want to make an extra effort for marine safety and environmental protection, you may elect the Exceptional Compliance Program (ECOPRO) for tank vessels. If you select this option, your operating procedures, personnel policies, and management practices must exceed Washington's BAP standards. Under this option, our vessel inspectors will verify compliance with ECOPRO standards developed in consultation with representatives from the tank vessel industry. ECOPRO recognition includes a special award presented at a public ceremony.

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## **More about the BAP List and ECOPRO List**

The BAP List and the ECOPRO list will be located on our Web site:  
<http://www.wa.gov/ecology/spills/spills.html>.

Listing your company on the BAP List or ECOPRO List means that your company's prevention plan, SMS, or RCP meets Washington's BAP standards and that this has been confirmed by vessel inspections.

To stay on the BAP List or ECOPRO List, you will have to keep your prevention plan, SMS, or RCP up-to-date and continue to allow our vessel inspectors to board and inspect your tank vessels when they call in Washington State waters.

Whichever option you choose, we will need a submittal agreement letter, signed by a senior company official, certifying that you agree to comply with your approved prevention plan, SMS, or RCP, and granting our vessel inspectors permission to board and inspect your tank vessels. A sample submittal agreement letter, Washington's BAP and ECOPRO standards, and other materials for your guidance are available upon request. This information is also available on our Web site.

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## **How Do I get Started?**

If you would like to participate in Washington's voluntary compliance program for tank vessels, please contact Captain Laura Stratton for all the details at (360) 407-7485, fax (360) 407-7288, e-mail: [LSTR461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:LSTR461@ecy.wa.gov), or regular mail: Department of Ecology, Spills Program, P.O. Box 47600, Olympia, Washington 98504-7600.

*Ecology is an equal-opportunity agency. If you have special accommodation needs, contact Mariann Cook Andrews at (360) 407-7211 (voice) or (360) 407-6006 (TDD).*